

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 06887 130532Z

12

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 /050 W

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R 121428Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2616

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 6887

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE TWA FLIGHTS TO DHAHRAN; REQUEST FOR DOCUMENTATION;
NEED FOR BILATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA ND THE U.S.

REF: DHAHRAN 979 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT TWA IS NOW GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO RESUMING FLIGHTS TO DHAHRAN BY THE END OF OCTOBER. EVEN IF FLIGHTS SHOULD NOT RESUME IMMEDIATELY, OUR CONTACTS INDICATE THAT TWA IS DEFINITELY LOOKING FORWARD TO SOME SORT OF DIRECT TRAFFIC TO SAUDI ARABIA.

2. ACCORDING TO TWA VICE PRESIDENT STUART LONG, TWA OPERATED ITS DHAHRAN RUN ON A LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION FROM THE SAG, PRESUMABLY FROM THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THE EMBASSY HAS NO RECORD OF SUCH A LETTER, AND PRESUMES ALL COPIES HELD HERE WERE DESTROYED IN OCTOBER 1973. WE NEED A COPY OF THAT LETTER ASAP. IF DEPARTMENT HAS A COPY, PLEASE TRANSMIT TELEGRAPHICALLY SOONEST.

3. SAUDIA HAS NOW DECIDED TO OPEN A NORTH ATLANTIC RUN, TO BE LARGELY FREIGHT AT FIRST, SOMETIME IN 1976. SUCH ACTION COMBINED WITH TWA FLIGHTS INTO DHAHRAN INDICATE WE WILL BE FACED WITH THE NEED FOR A BI-LATERAL AGREEMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. EMBASSY WILL BE DISCUSSING
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 06887 130532Z

WITH CIVIL AVIATION DIRECTOR AND OTHER SAG OFFICIALS,

BUT BELIEVES THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BEGIN TO THINK ABOUT
NEGOTIATIONS SOMETIME DURING THIS CALENDAR YEAR.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE FORWARD ASAP, LETTER OF
AUTHORIZATION. NOTIFY EMBASSY OF PRELIMINARY STEPS
NECESSARY IN MOVING TOWARD BI-LATERAL AIR ACCORD, AND
WHETHER DEPARTMENT BELIEVES EMBASSY SHOULD BE PREPARED
TO RAISE ISSUE BEYOND INFORMAL LEVEL NOW PLANNED.
AKINS

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